Meeting Minutes

Ski for Light, Inc.

Executive Committee Meeting

March 6, 2025

Meeting via Zoom

President Coppens called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Roll Call

Julie Coppens, President

Sheri Richardson, Vice President

Krista Erickson, Secretary

Tim McCorcle, Treasurer

David Fisichella, Director-at-Large

Nicole Haley, Director-at-Large.

All Executive Committee members were present.

Action Via Email

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A draft of the January 31, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes were distributed to the Executive Committee e-mail list on January 31, 2025. A draft of the minutes of the executive session portion of that meeting were also distributed to the Executive Committee via e-mail not using the Listserv on January 31, 2025. With no changes requested, both sets of minutes were considered approved with the Executive Committee meeting minutes distributed to the SFL Board on February 8, 2025 and the executive session minutes retained by the Secretary awaiting further filing instructions from SFL.

Birkie

Julie reported that SFL had a successful Birkie experience. We collected about thirty contacts. Judy is adding them to the database so they will receive the next Bulletin and also sharing them with the Guide Recruitment Committee. The ParaBirkie was disappointing, SFL will be participating in a follow-up meeting next week. This year, the ParaBirkie was a three-k untracked trail and was very disorganized -- clearly an after-thought. The finish was a mess. SFL has our name on this event so we want to help the Birkie understand what is important. We want to make the whole Birkie experience more accessible -- all the various events and races.

Julie is working on the Annual Report and the Spring Appeal which should both go out in the next few weeks. Tim and Nicole have reviewed an initial draft of the Compilation Report, the final draft should be finished soon. A mailing to SONs lodges went out about a week ago and we’ve received updated contact information from a few lodges.

Treasurer’s Report

Tim reported the following account balances:

Wells Fargo Checking: $45,111.54;

Wells Fargo Savings: $188,534.60;

PayPal Bank: $16,782.07;

Total Cash: $250,428.21;

SFL Endowment Managed by BTC: $537,119.00;

Unrestricted Assets Managed by BTC: $139,979.00;

Total BTC: $677,098.00.

The major bills from the 2025 Event, including the hotel, ski area and caterer have been paid. The Event will run a significant deficit. The Compilation report should be finished soon and a draft of the 990 Form should be ready in the next two weeks.

International Week Event Wrap-up

Sheri reported that the post-event survey remains outstanding.

SFL’s corporate sponsors list online is out-of-date -- David will update that list and send updates to Judy or Larry to update the website and also provide an updated list for the next issue of the SFL Bulletin.

Julie reported that the second-chance t-shirt order is going well and will be open for just over another week. SFL will need a new supplier for next year.

Executive Session

Julie moved and Nicole seconded a motion to place the meeting into executive session to address two Code of Conduct Policy concerns. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was placed into executive session at 8:23 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The meeting was voted out of executive session at 9:37 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Site Selection

The proposed sites were briefly reviewed/summarized. The contract for 2026 with Snow Mountain Ranch is still in progress.

Questions were raised about the affordability of Stoweflake. Nicole has skied this area -- there are definite questions about snow reliability but the area is beautiful, cold and offers challenging terrain for more advanced skiers. This may be a problem for beginning skiers. The 5K would be about 30% more difficult than Soldier Hollow. Nicole volunteered to visit the possible hotel in Burlington, VT. Questions were raised about the drive from Burlington to the ski area. The trails at West Yellowstone may be an issue since we’d have to work with the Park Service. Room rates are higher than 2025 and we would again be using two hotels.

Both locations are reliant on regional airports which may be a problem.

Nicole will look into the driving distance/route from Burlington to the ski area and also survey the hotel in Burlington.

Nicole will talk with Cara about the above questions and also ask about whether or not the Site Selection Committee considered Snow Mountain Ranch (SMR) for 2027. If the contract with SMR for 2026 is not finalized yet, would adding 2027 create some leverage for better pricing?

Adjournment.

Tim moved and David seconded a motion to suspend the meeting and reconvene on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was suspended at 10:04 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Meeting Minutes

Ski for Light, Inc.

Reconvened Executive Committee Meeting

March 10, 2025

Meeting via Zoom

President Coppens called the reconvened meeting to order at 8:08 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Roll Call

Julie Coppens, President

Sheri Richardson, Vice President

Krista Erickson, Secretary

Tim McCorcle, Treasurer

David Fisichella, Director-at-Large

Nicole Haley, Director-at-Large.

All Executive Committee members were present.

Site Selection

Nicole reported that she visited the DoubleTree Hotel in Burlington. It is a hotel and conference center with ballrooms and a fixed dance floor. The hotel can seat seven-hundred (700) people for dinner. SFL would be a medium-size group for them. Guest rooms were recently renovated and the hotel has some accessible rooms. Two buses could load at the main entrance. There is a pool but no hot tub. Signage has both braille and raised numbers. On a good day, it would take forty minutes to get from the hotel to the ski site. Nicole also surveyed a local ski site but it has no building and won’t schedule winter events without also scheduling a rain-day. The drive should be passable in winter but may be slower than usual -- roads in Vermont generally stay open in the winter.

Stoweflake gains only fifteen minutes of travel time but at what cost? Room rates for Provo and Burlington are similar. Are there things to do at Stoweflake which aren’t available in Burlington for no-snow activities or vise-versa?

SFL should be asking for how many days a ski area issued trail passes during a season and how many races had to be canceled during a season?

A suggestion was made to table Vermont to research snowfall, alternate ski areas, available activities if we can’t ski and if there is a viable hotel near Craftsbury.

The Trapp Family Lodge has snowmaking capabilities and are improving their snowmaking systems – they are able to guarantee 3k of trails but questions were raised about the terrain of those trails.

Stoweflake would probably be about a $125,000 subsidy. In 2023, SFL ran a $70,000 deficit from the Event so 2026 may incur a deficit of $90,000. What are our fundraising prospects? It may make more sense to select a site such as Stoweflake for a significant anniversary year.

West Yellowstone

SFL would need to use two hotels which would require a shuttle between them. SFL would have to work with the Forest Service for trails which would require permits and some level of uncertainty as to whether or not there would still be a Forest Service in 2027. West Yellowstone may have fewer concerns about not being able to ski. For this site we need to know: availability of shuttle service between hotels; a Forest Service back-up plan; where lunch would be served; more information about food quality and meeting space at the Holiday Inn. Do we have local support in West Yellowstone? Would we need another advance team visit to West Yellowstone similar to the visit we did for Provo last Spring?

The possible site at Winthrop, Washington was briefly discussed. Concerns were raised about the distance from the nearest airport and the size of the prospective hotel. Shuttles within the valley would be needed which could be difficult because it is rural. Snowfall is good but it can be unpredictable. The site would not be able to hold our usual group of 250 people.

The possibility of going to Snow Mountain Ranch (SMR) in 2027 was briefly discussed.

The proposed site at Bozeman doesn’t have a sufficient area for lunch and a tent would be required -- we’d need a hard floor in the tent as well as heating. There was a general consensus to set this option aside for now and focus on deciding between West Yellowstone or a variation of the Vermont options.

The Committee was informally polled on the Vermont options with two people in favor of Stoweflake, two people in favor of Burlington and two people undecided.

Per Policy, the Executive Committee should present a singular recommendation for the Board to consider but there are competing priorities such as the reliability of snow vs. holding the International Week Event in other parts of the country.

After a brief discussion and several proposed motions that weren’t seconded, Nicole moved and Sheri seconded a motion that the Executive Committee recommend two options to the Board for differing reasons – staying at Stoweflake skiing at Trapp or West Yellowstone. The motion carried unanimously.

David will work on drafting an explanation of the recommendation with the reasoning to share with the Board prior to the Board meeting.

Adjournment.

Nicole moved and David seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.